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SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

MESSAGES RECEIVED ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

(Issued in accordance with a decision taken by the Special Committee at its 638th meeting on 21 March 1990)

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I. MESSAGES FROM MEMBER STATES

AFGHANISTAN

H.E. Mr. Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

[Original: English]

I am pleased to express, on behalf of the people and Government of Afghanistan, my full support for the occaison of holding a solemn meeting in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Celebrating this day, which coincides with the thirtieth anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre in South Africa, is of special and exceptional importance for the struggle of the people of South Africa against racial discrimination.

Recent events in South Africa, particularly the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners, are demonstrations of the fact that the movement in support of the elimination of racial discrimination is strengthening day by day and is coming close to final victory. The Government of Afghanistan hopes that the legitimate rights of the majority of the people of South Africa will be ensured in the near future through peaceful, political means. We firmly believe that the policy of racial discrimination and the doctrine of racism are not only a grave crime against humanity but a threat to international peace and security as well.

I would like to reiterate the solidarity of the Government of Afghanistan with the struggle of the people of South Africa. Afghanistan is ready to continue its support to the legitimate cause of the people of South Africa for putting an end to the inhuman system of racial discrimination and racism on the basis of the lofty ideals of the Charter of the United Nations and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

H.E. Mr. V. C. Bird, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

[Original: English]

On this, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda reiterate our condemnation of discriminatory, racist policies and practices wherever they may occur.

As a nation, we urge the victims of racial discrimination to rise up and crush the forces of oppression, regardless of consequence. My people recall the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa 30 years ago today; its bloody history assures our unflagging support for the struggle to end apartheid. That evil system, propagated by an evil Government, will soon be destroyed.

My Government and people call upon the international community to continue to exert even greater pressure on the apartheid régime until the last vestiges of racial discrimination are eliminated.

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READEX FICHE

ARGENTINA

Mr. Domingo Cavallo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I should like to reaffirm that the Argentine Government and people profoundly reject any system based on any type of discrimination or which permits practices of that kind.

The Argentine Government wishes on this occasion once again to express its solidarity with the victims of racist oppression in South Africa and to reiterate its firm support for the important role which the United Nations is playing, particularly through the General Assembly and the Special Committee against Apartheid, to ensure recognition of equality among men whatever their origin, race, ideology or creed.

The Argentine Republic wishes once again to add its voice to the voices of those calling for the speedy and final elimination of any type of racial, political or religious discrimination.

BANGLADESH

H.E. Mr. Hussain Muhammad Ershad, President of Bangladesh

[Original: English]

Today is the twentieth anniversary of the observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. On this solemn occasion, I wish to reaffirm Bangladesh's unequivocal opposition to and rejection of racism and racial discrimination in all its forms and practices and particularly its most abhorrent institutionalized manifestation, apartheid. Bangladesh is constitutionally committed to this end. We are equally bound by our adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and the historic Universal Declaration of Human Rights to pursue the cardinal objective of promoting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

Twenty-one March marks the tragic incident of the Sharpeville massacre of 1960 in South Africa. It is the day on which the world community annually commemorates the first determined resistance to the evil system of apartheid and reaffirms its outright condemnation of racism in all its manifold aspects. The Sharpeville, Soweto and Pretoria demonstrations are indelible milestones in the continuing struggle of the people of South Africa to release their inalienable national rights and to achieve political, social and economic emancipation. We salute their courage in the face of brutal repression. We pay tribute to many martyrs who sacrificed their lives in this just cause and in the larger sense to uphold the conscience and dignity of mankind against the scourge of racism.

After long decades of sustained struggle, the 1990 observance of this day has acquired new and added significance. On this day, Namibia joins the community of nations as a sovereign independent equal. Our rejoicing is made more complete in the cognizance that South Africa itself is poised on the brink of momentous change with the release of Nelson Mandela after 27 years of imprisonment. These developments have swelled the tide of epochal changes sweeping across the globe that signal the end of the old order and the emergence of a new and hopefully more humane era.

The struggle in South Africa has intensified as victory appears in sight. There can be no compromise with reform or revision of the system of apartheid. It must be dismantled. Bangladesh is fully confident that we will soon see the inevitable realization of our long-cherished objectives - the establishment in South Africa of a united, non-racial and democratic society in which all the people, irrespective of race, colour or creed, will enjoy the same fundamental freedom and human rights.

BARBADOS

Mr. Maurice King, Q.C., M.P., Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: English]

On Sunday, 11 February, the eyes of the world were riveted on South Africa waiting to catch a glimpse of the man who was able to touch our hearts from a prison cell half way across the world.

The wait had been a long one, the struggle brutal. For decades, this man, Nelson Mandela, his family and his people were made to pay an awful price because they dared to believe that all men have the right to be free.

In fact, it was only 30 years ago today that the world stood by in horror as armed police opened fire on a group peacefully protesting the injustice of apartheid.

The country? South Africa. The place? A town called Sharpeville. Picture it, if you can.

Bullets singing through the air. People, confused and panicked, desperately trying to find a place to hide. Bodies lying in the dust; injured people everywhere.

When the carnage was over, 60 blacks lay dead and the world was awakened to the horror that is apartheid.

Today, Barbados joins the rest of the international community in remembering this crime against humanity; a crime that must never be forgotten.

For hundreds of years, people of colour have sacrificed their lives to ensure that their children can walk tall in this world secure in the knowledge that all men are equal because all men are shaped in the image of God.

For this reason, if for no other, Sharpeville must be given a place of honour in our hearts; a reminder of the senseless brutality of which human beings are capable.

But if Sharpeville seems to have taken place in a distant time, we have but to turn our attention to South Africa in 1990 to realize the battle is still raging, the opposing factions gearing up for the final offensive that will decide not only the fate of a nation, but the future of the world.

It is nothing short of poetic justice that Nelson Mandela today finds himself a major force in this struggle, to secure the freedoms which his people have lived without for so long.

For much of this man's life, the South African authorities have gone to great lengths to ensure his silence. But today, I am happy to say, his voice rings louder than ever; proof of man's ability to triumph over hardship, persecution and the many injustices of this world.

Unfortunately, Mr. Mandela can attest to the fact that, although he has been released from prison, he is far from being free. How can a man be free when he has no control over where he may live, the land he may own or the school to which he may send his children?

The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "a denial of freedom to an individual is a denial of life itself". His words are no less true today than the day he said them, more than 25 years ago.

It is indeed sad that we find ourselves having to fight the same war Dr. King fought so many years ago and that, after so many great men and women have dedicated their lives to promoting racial equality, there remain people in the world who continue to judge a man solely by the colour of his skin.

What now seems like a lifetime ago, Dr. King cautioned: "If Western civilization does not now respond constructively to the challenge to banish racism, some future historian will have to say ... a great civilization died because it lacked the soul and commitment to make justice a reality for all men."

There, in a nutshell, is the future that will be ours if we do not take steps to address the prickly issues of racism and racial discrimination.

BOLIVIA

H.E. Mr. Jaime Paz Zamora, President of Bolivia

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I have the honour to convey the sentiments of solidarity of the people and Government of Bolivia.

The slow and gradual recognition and effective application of the fundamental rights of human beings throughout the centuries is, basically, nothing but the history of the struggle against excesses of power, against injustice and violence, in order to convert into a reality the great ethical precepts which should govern civilized life and guide the moral conscience of mankind.

In this undertaking of the spirit of man in the search to find himself, the United Nations, under its Charter, has played a fundamental role in internationalizing the question of respect for proclaimed rights. In this way, it has accelerated the pace of history and compressed centuries into decades.

Thirty years ago, a group of women and men were massacred at Sharpeville for daring to assert their rights and for trying to preserve their outraged dignity and became martyrs to the cause of human rights and a symbol of the struggle against the crime of apartheid and similar policies and practices of racial segregation.

Today, the racial majority in South Africa, after a courageous struggle by the people and their leaders, like Nelson Mandela, and with the support of the international community, is beginning to see a possibility of transformations which should, without fail, bring about the final abolition of apartheid. In this connection, the observance on this same date of the independence of Namibia, which marks the end of the colonial history of Africa, is a happy and significant coincidence, since, as the preamble to the 1960 General Assembly Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples indicates, colonialism, is associated with practices of segregation and racial discrimination.

Bolivia is a multicultural and multiethnic reality, and as a country it is composed of many peoples. The best tribute we can pay to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is therefore for all Bolivians to show persistence in the process of national construction, a process in which the different cultures must be constantly respected, as peoples, in order to achieve unity in diversity.

BRAZIL

Government of Brazil

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Brazil reaffirms its unequivocal condemnation of all forms of racial discrimination, especially the practice of apartheid. This odious régime is particularly repugnant to the consciousness of the Brazilian people, whose background comprises different races and cultures. It is also incompatible with the Brazilian Constitution, as well with the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The attitude of strong repudiation of apartheid by the international community has of late significantly contributed to the positive internal developments in South Africa. The Brazilian Government hopes that the recent measures adopted by the Government of Pretoria will not only lead to a peaceful and constructive understanding, but also pave the way to the prompt and total abolition of the régime of apartheid and the building of a fair and just society in South Africa.

BURKINA FASO

H.E. Captain Blaise Compaore, Chairman of the Popular Front, Head of State and Head of the Government of Burkina Faso

[Original: French]

The observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination affords us the opportunity of addressing this message to you in order once again to place on record the solidarity of the people of Burkina Faso and its political leadership with all victims of racial discrimination, in particular the oppressed people of South Africa.

The people of Burkina Faso are observing this Day under the banner of solidarity and reverence. The Day coincides with the thirtieth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in which hundreds of people fell to the bullets of the racist Pretoria régime. That event, which is so sad to recall, illustrates, like countless other crimes, the inhuman character of apartheid.

This is why this Day must also be an occasion for reaffirming that apartheid remains in the forefront of our concerns and that the present situation in South Africa requires greater vigilance on the part of the international community. In fact, in spite of the release of Nelson Mandela and the lifting of the ban on anti-apartheid movements and organizations, the structure of apartheid remains unchanged.

The international community must therefore continue to stand side by side with the South African people in its struggle by maintaining and intensifying all forms of pressure and sanctions against the apartheid régime.

For its part, the people of Burkina Faso will support that struggle until the black majority finds in dignity its rightful place in a multi-racial, egalitarian and democratic South Africa.

In offering you my congratulations on the work that has already been done, I should also like to reaffirm my confidence in and my encouragement of the Special Committee for its continued dedication to the anti-apartheid struggle.

CHILE

His Excellency Mr. Patricio Aylwin Azócar, President of Chile

[Original: Spanish]

In commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I wish to express the commitment of my Government and the people of Chile to the worthy cause for which it stands, namely that all mankind should live in harmony, both within and across national boundaries.

My Government will consider it a priority to make every effort needed to ensure that profound respect for the equality of all human beings, without distinction of any kind, will reign throughout the international community.

I wish for the success of the noble cause in which we are all engaged, and to which the Government and the people of Chile pledge their whole-hearted and unstinting commitment, the cause of establishing basic and irrevocable standards of respect for human rights, and of eradicating once and for all anything that might diminish them, throughout the international community.

CHINA

H.E. Mr. Li Peng, Premier of the State Council of China

[Original: Chinese]

On the occasion of "the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination" proclaimed by the United Nations, I would like to voice, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, our solidarity and support to the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid and express our appreciation to the Committee for its efforts in supporting the people of South Africa in their struggle for eliminating racial discrimination and apartheid.

The South African authorities have long pursued the policy of racial discrimination and apartheid, trampling upon the basic rights of the black people or depriving them of their basic rights, which has met with resolute opposition by the people of South Africa and world-wide condemnation. We are delighted to see that gratifying changes have taken place in southern Africa as a result of the protracted struggle by the people in the region and the joint efforts of the

international community. To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Namibia decided to declare independence on this date this year, putting an end to the illegal rule of Namibia by South Africa for many years. The South African authorities have lifted the ban on the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) and the South African Communist Party under internal and external pressure. Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and other famous black leaders subjected to long-term unwarranted imprisonment have regained freedom. These are welcome steps taken by the South African authorities. But it must be pointed out that the South African authorities have not completely abandoned their policy of racial discrimination and apartheid at all. The international community must continue to make joint efforts towards the complete elimination of racial discrimination and apartheid.

The Chinese Government and people have all along firmly supported the South African people in their just struggle against racial discrimination and apartheid. We believe that the Harare Declaration adopted last year by the Ad Hoc Committee on Southern Africa of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Declaration by the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on apartheid and its destructive consequences provide a practical basis for a political settlement of the South African question. The South African authorities should go along with the historical tide, have a clear understanding of the situation and enter into earnest negotiations with the representatives of the black people of South Africa on the removal of racial discrimination and apartheid at an early date. We are convinced that as long as the South African people persist in their struggle and the international community continue to apply pressure on the South African authorities, the South African people will surely achieve their goal in their struggle for racial equality and fundamental human rights.

COLOMBIA

His Excellency Mr. Virgilio Barco, President of Colombia

[Original: Spanish]

In commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I have the honour to reaffirm the support of the people and the Government of Colombia for the efforts of the international community to eliminate segregationist politics violating the very essence of our fundamental liberties and preventing peoples from freely exercising their inalienable right to participate in the determination of their own destiny.

Colombia has shown particular commitment to all initiatives and actions aimed at countering the intransigent attitude of South Africa whose government strategy or party ideology keeps the South African majority in conditions of oppression. This is an affront to civilization, democracy, pluralism and the legitimate aspirations for which Nelson Mandela has stood with admirable courage and self-sacrifice.

On this date, Colombia addresses an appeal to the international community to offer the greatest possible assistance to those racial groups who are victims of discrimination, through the adoption of special measures guaranteeing their progress under conditions of equality and the enjoyment and protection of their human rights.

CUBA

Mr. Isidoro Malmierca, Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: Spanish]

This year, what has become the traditional message on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has special significance: on this very day - 21 March 1990 - Namibia is proclaiming its independence, the result of the heroic struggle of the Namibian people, under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), and of international solidarity, which reached one of its highest expressions through the United Nations.

The apartheid régime has been forced not only to accept the terms of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) on the independence of Namibia but also to adopt some internal measures in South Africa to reduce the indefensible segregation to which the black population has been subjected there. Such measures represent a positive step towards the eradication of apartheid; however, it should be kept in mind that these measures, being limited and partial, are not enough to achieve that objective. The release of Nelson Mandela constitutes an outstanding achievement in the struggle being waged by the South African people and the international anti-apartheid movement. From the jubilation unleashed, both within and outside of South Africa, by Mandela's liberation and his express order to continue the struggle until apartheid is completely eliminated, it can be predicted that the final days of that ignominious régime are at hand.

Yet racial discrimination is also present in the policy of social segregation of millions of migrant workers in many of the developed capitalist countries. There, in addition to being in a disadvantaged situation and being subjected to wage exploitation and the loss of individual rights, migrant workers suffer from isolation, because of race or descent, within the communities in which they work, thus compounding the injustice done to them.

Today, a message of solidarity must go out to black people and Indians living in the United States of America, who are victims of discrimination; to the Palestinian and other Arab peoples in the territories occupied by Israel, where defenceless inhabitants are massacred, settlements are reduced to rubble and human rights are violated every day; and to Puerto Ricans and Hispanic people in general living in the United States of America, who, on account of their origin or the colour of their skin, are considered as second-class citizens in the imperialist society in which they live.

The States Members of the United Nations have pledged themselves to take joint and separate action to promote and encourage effective and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. That pledge must be honoured in order to have a world of real peace, in which everyone shares equally in the benefits and which encourages the participation of men and women, without exception, on an equal footing in order to achieve an economic and social development which meets their needs and encourages respect for their dignity.

Article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which has been ratified by an overwhelming majority of the States Members of the United Nations, defines the term "racial discrimination" as meaning any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.

The fight against racial discrimination is a fight for a world that is more just in every respect; for equal treatment for all peoples without exception; for the elimination of international tensions; for respect for the independence and sovereignty of all countries; and for an environment of real peace from which no one is excluded. We would not be mistaken in asserting that beneath the policy of exploitation, hostility and aggression lies hidden an attitude of contempt on the part of the powerful and the mighty for peoples of other races.

The Cuban people have fully eliminated discrimination in Cuba not through public pronouncements, nor solely by enacting constitutional or legislative provisions, which in many States are a mockery, but in actual practice in political, economic and social life. That is an irreversible achievement of the revolution, to which Cuba can point with just pride. It can also take pride in the sacrifices its sons have made, paying with their blood so that the apartheid régime would respect the sovereignty of Angola and grant independence to Namibia, a long-standing goal of the United Nations, thus ensuring the demise of the system of racial segregation which has existed in that territory until this very day and serving to encourage and spur on the heroic struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa.

On the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Cuban Government reiterates its decision to continue its struggle for that ideal of mankind. There is no higher goal to which we could dedicate our efforts.

CYPRUS

H. E. Mr. George Vassiliou, President of Cyprus

[Original: English]

As we observe today the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which this year coincides with the thirtieth anniversary of the

Sharpeville massacre in South Africa on 21 March 1960, we pay tribute to all those who have sacrificed their lives in defence of the dignity and equality of all human beings and in the struggle against apartheid. Their commitment to the cause of freedom, justice and human rights has been a source of inspiration for the oppressed, and all freedom-loving nations, world wide.

Recent developments in South Africa, including the long overdue release from unlawful detention of Nelson Mandela, can only be interpreted as a victory of the forces which have been fighting for the prevalence of the rule of law, democracy and the safeguarding and respect of human rights for all the people of South Africa.

The Government of Cyprus, while welcoming these developments as steps in the right direction, wishes to reiterate its determination to continue to co-operate with the international community for the eradication of the abhorrent doctrine and practice of apartheid and racial discrimination, the existence of which constitutes an affront to humanity as a whole.

The people of South Africa are entitled to live in a free and democratic society in which all persons can enjoy fully their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights irrespective of colour, race or other considerations.

The cause of human dignity is a common responsibility that we must all assume. Today's proclamation of Namibia's independence is yet another proof of what concerted international action can achieve, as well as a victory for the United Nations.

The people of Cyprus, being themselves victims for the last 16 years of racial persecution and discrimination by Turkey, which in 1974 invaded the country and has since continued to occupy a large part of its territory, reaffirm their solidarity with all those suffering from racial discrimination and injustice and pledge themselves to continue their struggle against oppression in all its forms.

ECUADOR

The Government of Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I wish to reiterate the profound commitment of the people and Government of Ecuador to respect for the inherent dignity of the human person in all parts of the world, and our confidence that the work of the United Nations towards eradication of the gravest and most systematic violation of human rights, embodied in the reprehensible and odious system of apartheid, will achieve the same level of success as has been obtained in promoting and protecting those rights.

EGYPT

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of Egypt and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity

[Original: Arabic]

On the occasion of the observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I am pleased to convey to you the acclaim of the Egyptian people and its Government for the assiduous efforts being made by the Committee in alerting the conscience of the world to the oppressive and odious character of practices and policies of racial discrimination.

The international community has unanimously agreed to reject racial segregation and any collaboration with policies of apartheid and has done so on the grounds that they are a crime against mankind that must be fought and eliminated and a human disgrace that must be expunged and eradicated.

It is natural and logical that the oppressed majority in South Africa should refuse to accept the fact that it has been deprived of its legitimate human rights; it is natural and logical that the majority of those thus deprived should have turned from passive resistance, which has found no response in the medieval mentality that has characterized the rulers of the State over long years; and it is natural and logical that the nationalist majority should not have surrendered itself to a sense of despair. It has therefore been compelled to relinquish the call for democratic change in favour of the violent methods for which there is no alternative given the persistent failure of the ruling minority to heed the voice of justice and wisdom, having ignored legitimate demands for change and reform.

Contemporary history confirms that policies of racial discrimination have been responsible for all the problems from which southern Africa suffers. Accordingly, the African continent rightly believes that the true starting point for coping with the challenges presented in this important region of the world must be the complete and definitive elimination of racist practices and the restoration of legitimate rights to the majority of the citizens of South Africa who have long been deprived of them.

Great international pressure and the various sanctions imposed on South Africa have succeeded in achieving what has every appearance of being a kind of stirring of conscience among its rulers and have led to the encouraging signs of change and reform that we currently perceive among its new leaders.

While many countries of the world have welcomed those encouraging signs as an indication that Pretoria is finally beginning to renounce its racist policies, Africa's reception of them remains cautious. Despite the release of a number of militant nationalist leaders, foremost among them Nelson Mandela, and despite the fact that larger political meetings have been allowed to take place under the continued state of emergency, the lack of confidence in the good faith of South Africa prompted by the experience of dealing with it over the past decades requires of Africans that they should not abandon caution.

While such changes and reforms bring for our struggling brothers in South Africa a glimmer of light and a spark of hope for the imminent resolution of the crisis and the restitution of rights, the leadership in Pretoria is required, perhaps more than at any time in the past, to provide assurances of its good intentions and the sincerity of its desire for peace and to strive earnestly to build confidence through the steps and measures it will take.

While the world is today celebrating the independence of Namibia, we believe that the current changes taking place in the international arena appear to be entirely appropriate, given the existence of sincere intentions, for the achievement of peace and security in the entire region, that it is the duty of the Pretoria Government to seize the opportunity presented by these circumstances and that it has an obligation to take advantage of them in order to arrive at a just, negotiated settlement that preserves the rights of all parties and safeguards the aspirations of all citizens for a bright and decent future.

Africa believes the the changes that have taken place are no more than the beginning of the road towards the complete eradication of policies of racial and ethnic discrimination and towards enabling the oppressed majority to exercise its inalienable right to participate in all aspects of life in its homeland in a framework of equality and to participate in building a future for the benefit of all classes of society and of future generations.

Accordingly, we call upon Pretoria to summon up the necessary historical courage and to strive sincerely by means of practical measures to create a climate suitable for the launching of a democratic dialogue among all parties on a basis of equality. The Harare Declaration of August 1989 sets out the stages that we consider will assuredly lead to the achievement of the desired goal.

Dialogue is the only way that a peaceful solution to the conflict in South Africa can be achieved. Peace and security are the aim of all of its citizens, and experience has shown that they cannot possibly be confined to particular segments of the population. Peace and security are an integral whole, and we see no way to achieving that whole without the participation of all in decision-making and in building the future.

I should like, through you, to express the acclaim and admiration of the Egyptian people for the heroic struggle of its brothers in South Africa. We assure you of the support and backing of the entire African continent for their triumphant struggle for dignity and equality.

GHANA

H.E. Flt-Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, Chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I wish, on behalf of the Government and people of Ghana and on my

own behalf, to express our sincere gratitude to all who have contributed in diverse ways to the efforts of the international community to eliminate racism and racial discrimination from the world. Any effort against these twin evils of mankind is a positive contribution to the maintenance of international peace.

We are particularly indebted to the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid for its vanguard role in the struggle to end the most pernicious, repugnant and abominable form of racism and racial discrimination the world has ever known, namely apartheid. Apartheid has been rightly condemned as evil and inconsistent with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. It is a threat to international peace, for it contains in itself the seeds of injustice and inequality. Every effort should therefore be made to eliminate it from the world.

As we observe this day, we salute the memory of the heroic sons and daughters of South Africa who have made the supreme sacrifice of their lives so that the world may recognize and respect human dignity and equality of all men. We recall, in particular, those unarmed and defenceless South Africans who were massacred at Sharpeville, thirty (30) years ago for daring to ask, in the name of the majority, for equality in their own land of birth. The dedication of this day to their memory is a testimony to the legitimacy of the struggle and a constant reminder that peace shall continue to elude mankind until racism and racial discrimination are uprooted from the world.

The persistent advocacy and pursuit of the struggle against apartheid have forced the racist régime to concede the futility in its refusal to heed the call of the international community to sanity. It has finally taken the first concrete steps that could, hopefully, lead to the elimination of apartheid in South Africa. The unbanning of the liberation movements and other anti-apartheid organizations and the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela and six others do, undoubtedly, open avenues for co-operation. They are, however, only first and limited steps which should not bait the international community into relaxation of the measures which have isolated and pressured the racist régime into these gestures. It is for this reason that Ghana renews the call for the maintenance, and even strengthening, of sanctions against racist South Africa, until apartheid is dismantled.

On this solemn day, we, the Government and people of Ghana, recalling the sorrow and pain that racism and racial discrimination have caused mankind, conscious of the opportunities that present developments in the world in general and South Africa in particular provide for the peaceful elimination of apartheid and determined that the world should be rid of the scourge of apartheid, reaffirm our faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in equality amongst all men and nations large and small and rededicate ourselves to the struggle to end racism and racial discrimination.

We salute the Special Committee against Apartheid, we salute all who have dedicated their lives to the struggle against apartheid and above all we salute the fallen heroes of the struggle.

GUINEA

H.E. Brigadier-General Lansana Conte, President of Guinea

[Original: French]

The observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination affords us an opportunity to offer you sincere and hearty congratulations, on behalf of the people and Government of Guinea and on our own behalf. We follow with great interest the praiseworthy efforts which the United Nations, through its Special Committee against Apartheid, continues to make to rid mankind forever of the scourge of racism, racial discrimination and that crime against humanity which is the apartheid system of the white minority racist Government of South Africa. We continue to give our unqualified backing to this labour of justice, freedom and democracy for all.

GUYANA

Government of Guyana

[Original: English]

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination this year is being observed against a backdrop of circumstances which are radically different from those at this same time last year. Africa's last colony and outpost of Pretoria's apartheid system has joined the ranks of the independent nations of the world. The road has been long and strewn with many obstacles. Many Namibians have paid the supreme sacrifice in order that those still alive may now heartily rejoice at the retreat of apartheid.

Within South Africa itself, several bits of apartheid legislation have been repealed, making for a situation which clearly offers more promise of change. The bantustans are in ferment as blacks seek a hasty redress for their hitherto alien status within the country of their forefathers.

This year, too, the constant refrain of more than two decades will be no more. No longer do we need to call for the release of Nelson Mandela, the very embodiment of the apartheid struggle. He is now a free man and has grown in stature since that historic Sunday, 11 February 1990.

But even as we salute these achievements, we cannot be heedless of the warnings which we receive from Africans in the vanguard of the struggle, not least the very Nelson Mandela who has been careful to recognize the bold steps taken so far by the new South African President.

Mr. Mandela enjoins us to continue to assist President de Klerk in his efforts at dismantling grand apartheid. His firm position is that such assistance can only be in the form of continued pressure on the régime. He does not feel that this is the time to sit back and be complacent.

The rush to embrace the régime can only damage the long-term goal of majority rule for the blacks and the raising of their dignity to a level of human respect.

Thus Guyana renews its support for the Special Committee against Apartheid, whose work continues to be relevant even as we have entered the 1990s. Guyana also reaffirms its support for the majority black population whose struggle for a non-racial, democratic South Africa has received a fillip. Guyana remains convinced that the struggle will have a successful conclusion and the time may not be long before apartheid, the blot on the human conscience, finally disappears from the face of the Earth.

HUNGARY

Mr. Gyula Horn, Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: English]

On behalf of the Government of Hungary I extend respectful greetings to the special meeting in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The Government of Hungary pays special attention to the respect and full implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms and resolutely condemns all kinds of discrimination. It considers racial discrimination to be the most cruel and extreme manifestation of discrimination among people which is in absolute contradiction with the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the basic laws and constitutions of the majority of the States Members of the United Nations. On the basis of the universal character of human rights and fundamental freedoms, international public opinion rightfully shows firm resolution against apartheid which has become untenable. The Hungarian Government expresses its satisfaction over the fact that, as a result of the pressure, efforts and concerted actions of the international community, an unprecedented possibility for the elimination of apartheid has emerged.

The Special Committee against Apartheid, of which Hungary is a founding member plays a leading role in the struggle against racial discrimination. The Government of Hungary considers that the early and complete elimination of apartheid remains a political objective of fundamental importance. It deems it indispensable to seek jointly and to apply the most appropriate methods to achieve this goal and also to guarantee the peaceful character of the transition. To this end Hungary is ready to take an active part in the work of the Committee in the future as well.

INDONESIA

H.E. Mr. Soeharto, President of Indonesia

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Government and people of Indonesia reaffirm their solidarity with the people of South Africa in their noble struggle against the unjust system of apartheid and in their determined efforts to promote respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It is deplorable that as we mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre, violence continues to be inflicted on the people of South Africa and the vestiges of apartheid and discrimination persist through the suppression of human aspirations for justice, freedom and racial equality.

Throughout this ordeal, the anti-apartheid forces have remained steadfast and determined in the moral struggle to eliminate racial discrimination and bring an end to this dark chapter of history. Such endurance and perseverance have recently yielded a most welcome development: the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela, who today stands as an example worthy of emulation by all men and women struggling for their rights. The people of Indonesia pay tribute to Mr. Mandela for the courage he has displayed, and the cause for which he stands. Despite his long incarceration, he has shown magnanimity and statesmanship in calling for a shared future for blacks and whites in a fully desegregated society. He is the pivotal figure of overwhelming importance in the efforts to attain a multiracial state with human and democratic rights for all the peoples of South Africa. The symbolism of his triumph can no longer be suppressed. But regrettably, the Pretoria régime is not ready for negotiations which can only take place when the South African Government releases all political prisoners, end emergency rule, repeal repressive laws and end political trials. It is time for the minority régime to show that it has both the will and the heart to accept democracy for all its peoples and abandon racism as the foundation of its society.

Indonesia remains unconvinced of the South African régime's willingness to end this oppressive system. The continuing state of emergency, the daily killings of innocent men, women and children, detention without trial and arrest demonstrate the repression perpetrated daily against the people of South Africa, in a futile attempt to sustain apartheid and racial discrimination. The most effective means available to the international community to bring about a peaceful solution to this tragic situation lies in the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and the total isolation of the Pretoria régime. The international pressure on the régime should now be intensified in order to create conditions conducive to meaningful negotiations between the minority Government and the leaders of the majority. The initiation of such measures should no longer be delayed in order to eradicate the scourge of apartheid.

We remain fully confident in the ultimate success of the anti-apartheid forces and avail of this opportunity to commend the work of the Special Committee against Apartheid for the liberation of the people of South Africa. The Government and people of Indonesia reaffirm their solemn commitment to the attainment of a non-racial society in which all the peoples of South Africa will play their full part as citizens with equal rights and privileges and in which racial prejudice will disappear.

IRELAND

Mr. Gerard Collins, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland, on behalf of the Twelve States members of the European Community

[Original: English]

It is appropriate that the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is also this year a day of celebration. The international community rejoices that, after so many years and so much suffering, Namibia today has joined the community of nations as a free, sovereign independent State. We have in the past expressed our support and solidarity with the Namibian people. Today it is only right to celebrate with them. The Twelve salute the achievement of the people of Namibia in making this day a reality. We warmly pay tribute to the central role played by the United Nations in the final peaceful establishment of structures based on the principle of self-determination and respect for the human rights of all. This achievement belongs to all the people of Namibia and we today pledge to them our friendship and support.

The Twelve have always supported efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination. They regard racial discrimination as unacceptable in that it constitutes a violation of basic human rights and as a debasement of the relevant principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It denies the principles of dignity and equality that are the birthright of all human beings.

The Governments and peoples of the Twelve States members of the European Community continue to express their resolute opposition to any form of discrimination whether based on race, colour, national or ethnic origin. Such manifestations of racism must be ended, as called for in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. In this respect, the Twelve are deeply concerned that, in spite of the efforts of the international community, the odious practice of racial discrimination continues in many parts of the world. The consensus achieved by the international community concerning the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination is a positive sign that the Members of the United Nations are deeply involved in their stance against racism and racial discrimination.

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination marks the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre. Thirty years later, apartheid remains the most abhorrent form of racial discrimination. It is an institutionalized system of

State racism which deprives the majority of the people of South Africa of their inalienable civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, by denying them freedom of political expression and genuine participation in the exercise of power. The Twelve unequivocally condemn this immoral system and have repeatedly called for its abolition.

The Twelve, with the rest of the international community, warmly welcomed the release of Nelson Mandela. Mr. Mandela has remained a potent symbol of freedom for all those struggling for the eradication of apartheid. His release comes at a crucial time in the history of South Africa when President de Klerk has stated his Government's acceptance that radical change to the structures of South African society can no longer be delayed.

The release of Nelson Mandela has been one of the basic demands of the Twelve over the years and we commend the South African Government on this step. Taken with the steps announced by President de Klerk on 2 February, this is without doubt a most important contribution to the establishment of that climate which the Twelve consider necessary for the initiation of genuine negotiations with the black community aimed at the total abolition of apartheid and the establishment of a new, democratic, united and non-racial South Africa.

The objective of the States members of the European Community is the complete dismantling of apartheid and the establishment of a free and democratic society in which all South Africans will enjoy equal rights. Positive and significant steps have been taken by the South African Government towards the creation of a climate conducive to negotiations. The Twelve hope that all sections of the South African political spectrum will now seize the important opportunity created by these steps in order to achieve the end of apartheid by peaceful means through negotiations. The Twelve hope that the South African Government will now lift the state of emergency. The Twelve have repeatedly called for the release of all political prisoners in South Africa and note the commitment given by President de Klerk to this end. They hope the planned talks between President de Klerk and representatives of the ANC will contribute to this process.

The Twelve reaffirm their commitment, reflected in the Declaration of the United Nations special session on apartheid in December 1989, to maintain pressure on South Africa until there is clear evidence of profound and irreversible changes in that country.

The Twelve are agreed that they can engage in cultural and scientific co-operation, it being understood that their objective in doing so is to contribute to the ending of apartheid.

The States members of the European Community are committed to the Code of Conduct of the European Economic Community for their companies operating in South Africa as a valid and effective instrument in the quest for equal rights for black workers and the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. The Community and its member States will furthermore continue to implement and strengthen their programme of assistance to the victims of apartheid and to promote economic co-operation with the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) and its nine member States.

On this occasion of this important commemoration, the Twelve wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm their determination to pursue their policy aimed at the complete and peaceful elimination of apartheid in South Africa and all forms of racial discrimination.

ISRAEL

Mr. Moshe Arens, Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: English]

On behalf of the Government of Israel and of the Jewish people, who have so often been the victims of racial discrimination, I wish to state once again that Israel rejects and condemns any form of racial discrimination and will continue to oppose it actively.

In the declaration of the establishment of the State of Israel, it is stated that Israel will be based on freedom, justice and peace, as envisaged by the prophets of Israel it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex.

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, we reaffirm our commitment to these lofty ideals.

JAMAICA

Government of Jamaica

[Original: English]

Today, 21 March 1990, Jamaica joins the international community in the observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This year the commemoration activities mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre and the fifth anniversary of the Langa massacre in South Africa. These incidents have shown the inhuman character of the apartheid system of racial discrimination.

Since President F. W. de Klerk's speech to the South African Parliament in February, the political climate has undergone considerable change. The release of Nelson Mandela, the removal of the ban on ANC and all other steps taken by Mr. de Klerk to pave the way towards black-white negotiations over the country's future mark a dramatic new phase in the country's history. By freeing Mandela, Mr. de Klerk started a process of change. There is now more hope for the oppressed people of South Africa than there ever has been. Apartheid seems nearer to being dismantled. Undoubtedly, pressure by the international community including the economic sanctions have contributed to this.

However, President de Klerk noticeably refrained from making any definite announcement which would have indicated a clear intention on the part of the Pretoria régime actively to dismantle and abolish the system of apartheid.

While Mr. de Klerk has publicly expressed his commitment to enter into negotiations with leaders of the anti-apartheid resistance and has spoken proudly of the new measures which he has taken to vastly improve the political atmosphere in the country, he has avoided taking any concrete steps for the removal of a number of obstacles in the way of reconciliation and dialogue towards meaningful and fundamental change in South Africa.

The fact remains that the main pillars of the apartheid system, such as the Group Areas Act, the Population Registration Act, the Bantustan "homelands" policy, the system of separate education and the segregation of Parliament, still remain in place and for the millions of South African citizens, a life of misery and oppression continues under the existing state of emergency.

What is needed now, more than ever, is concerted action by the international community to eradicate the system of apartheid. President de Klerk's actions earlier this year, particularly the release of Nelson Mandela, have renewed the discussion as to whether South Africa should be encouraged on its present path by lifting some of the sanctions presently in force.

The prevailing view within the international community, with the exception of the United Kingdom, is that the existing sanctions and measures against South Africa should remain in place, since the real negotiations about the future of the country for an end to the apartheid system, are yet to commence. Despite the measures taken by the South African Government, the internal situation has not yet matured to the stage that evidence exists of profound and irreversible change in South Africa that would warrant the immediate lifting and relaxation of sanctions. For Jamaica and the majority of members of the international community such evidence of irreversible change would have to involve a timetable and meaningful progress towards agreement on a mechanism for drawing up a new Constitution based on the commonly accepted democratic principle of one man, one vote.

Jamaica reaffirms its solidarity with and support for the oppressed majority in South Africa in their valiant struggle against apartheid. We again salute those stalwart men and women who have been willing to sacrifice their lives in the struggle for freedom from oppression, for themselves and their children. This year we salute Nelson Mandela on his release from prison and for the strength and courage he has shown. He is a symbol of fortitude in the South African liberation struggle. As Mandela stated on his release from prison, "This is not the time to relax our efforts, now is the time to intensify the struggle on all fronts".

We wish to pay a well-deserved tribute to the Special Committee against Apartheid in keeping the international community aware of developments in South Africa and alert to the need to act urgently and decisively against the system.

The Government and people of Jamaica anxiously await the day when the world will be free of the scourge of racism. It is our hope that in this decade, the

people of South Africa will be given the right to a dignified life, liberty and equality.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

Mr. Jadullah Azouz Talhi, Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

[Original: Arabic]

Today is the anniversary of the savage massacre perpetrated by the racist régime in South Africa against hundreds of African citizens in the township of Sharpeville in 1960. As the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya joins with you and with all States Members of the United Nations in commemorating this anniversary, it wishes once again to remind the international community that a large part of mankind is still subjected to the most heinous forms of racism, occupation, repression, tyranny and the deliberate denial of the most elementary human and political rights guaranteed by divine law and confirmed by the Charter of the United Nations and the various international instruments in the field of human rights.

More than 30 years have passed since the horrendous Sharpeville massacre, during which time the United Nations has made sustained efforts for the elimination of all manifestations of racism and racial discrimination. Nevertheless, such manifestations continue to exist and, by reason of their occurrence in South Africa and elsewhere, to cause economic decline, loss of human life and grievous human suffering.

The racist Zionist régime, which usurped the land of Palestine more than 40 years ago and slaughtered its people and drove them from their homes, engages in acts that are no less abominable than those carried out by the racist régime in South Africa. Just as the Pretoria régime persists in murder, expulsion and banishment, the Zionist entity practices the cruellest forms of torture against the Palestinian Arab people. The heinous character of these practices has reached such extremes as to include barbarous massacres, live burial, the demolition of homes and the expulsion, pursuit and liquidation of those engaged in the struggle wherever they might be.

The racist régimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine believe in the same racist theory and co-ordinate their racist practices against the peoples under their domination and their settler-colonialist occupation. In doing so, they rely on economic assistance and political and military support from the colonialist countries and the international monopolies. The two régimes are, moreover, bound by many links, the manifestations and indications of which require no reiteration. Just as the international community has condemned and rejected the policy of apartheid, it has also determined that zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination. This judgement on the part of the international community is contained in the historic United Nations General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX) of

1975. The international community has also frequently recognized the close linkage between the two régimes and their collaboration in all fields, particularly in military co-operation and co-operation with respect to nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

The international community has welcomed the release of the great African freedom fighter Nelson Mandela. It must nevertheless be recalled that hundreds of freedom fighters still await the restoration of their freedom. Accordingly, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya once again urges the international community to assume the responsibilities and meet the commitments that devolve upon it under the Charter of the United Nations by retaining and reinforcing the comprehensive sanctions imposed on the racist régimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine and by isolating them until such time as they submit to the will of the international community.

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in commemorating this occasion, applauds the assidious efforts being made by the Special Committee against Apartheid and by the United Nations and reaffirms its commitment to support those efforts so that the goal to which we all aspire can be achieved, namely the definitive elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination. It expresses the hope that the independence of Namibia, which will take place in a few days' time, will represent a glimmer of hope and will be a positive step in this domain.

MADAGASCAR

Mr. Jean Bemananjara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Madagascar

[Original: French]

Today the international community is commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the massacre of innocent people, including women and children, at Sharpeville. That day will go down in history as a symbol of the determination of the South African people in its struggle for a united, democratic and non-racial society.

Recent developments in South Africa, particularly the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and the partial lifting of the ban on liberation movements and certain political organizations, represent an irreversible step towards recognition of the legitimate aspirations of the South African people for dignity and political enfranchisement. Nevertheless, these measures will continue to be inadequate so long as the basic structures of apartheid remain intact.

The Government of Madagascar, for its part, takes this opportunity to reaffirm its solidarity with the just cause of the fraternal people of South Africa, and to call for the maintenance of international pressure on the Pretoria régime until the evil apartheid system has been totally eradicated.

MALAYSIA

H.E. the Right Hon. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which coincides with the thirtieth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa, I wish to reaffirm, on behalf of the Government and people of Malaysia, our unswerving support for the struggle of the people of South Africa against the abhorrent system of apartheid and racial discrimination.

Our observance of the International Day for the elimination of apartheid also coincides with the historic occasion of the birth of an independent Namibia. This crowning achievement of the Namibian people, after long years of struggle and sacrifice, stands as an inspiration to everyone engaged in the battle to bring about the complete destruction of the racist system of apartheid in South Africa.

The challenge for the oppressed population of South Africa to rid themselves of the yoke of racist apartheid continues to be formidable. Despite the recent encouraging developments, the system of apartheid remains intact in all its manifestations. The political gestures by the Pretoria régime can only be a beginning and not a substitute for fundamental reforms which must be effected to bring about the elimination of apartheid and the establishment of a free, non-racial, democratic and unified South Africa.

While the pillars of apartheid are still firmly embedded in South Africa and until they are dismantled, it would be premature for the international community to consider relaxation of pressure on South Africa. The majority population of South Africa must continue to receive our resolute support as they enter a new and even more challenging phase of their struggle.

Malaysia pledges its full support and solidarity with the people of South Africa in their endeavour to establish a new South Africa where all men can live in freedom and dignity as human beings, free from the scourge of apartheid.

MALDIVES

H.E. Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of Maldives

[Original: English]

On this International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I wish to reaffirm once again, in the name of the Government and people of Maldives, our unwavering support to those who are struggling for the elimination of racism and racial discrimination and all its attendant evils. We are unanimous in our condemnation of this crime against humanity.

As we commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination this year, there exists a ray of hope to all those who are vigorously pursuing an end to the evil of racism and racial discrimination, that their efforts have not been in vain. The unconditional release of Nelson Mandela after 27 years of imprisonment and the unbanning of ANC clearly indicate that the hard and long-fought battle of the black people in South Africa backed by the international community towards ending the racial strife in that country is bearing fruit. Unfortunately, the fight is by no means over. The white minority régime in Pretoria continues the persecution of the black majority. Laws enforcing racial segregation are not repealed. Thus, as long as this victimization continues and South Africa remains a nation perpetrating such crimes, there cannot be an end to the fight.

On this important day, let us also renew with vigour our determination to wipe out all forms of racism and racial discrimination from the face of the earth. The Government and the people of Maldives also take this opportunity to assure the Special Committee against Apartheid of their entire support in its noble efforts to eradicate racism and racial discrimination in all its forms.

MALI

President of the Republic of Mali and Secretary-General of the Democratic Union of the Malian People

[Original: French]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination, I wish, on behalf of the people of Mali, its party, the Democratic Union of the Malian People, its Government, and on my own behalf, to renew our firm support for the peoples struggling against racism and racial discrimination. The observance of this Day testifies not only to the commitment of the international community to the cause of millions of men and women throughout the world who are suffering from the inhuman and degrading practices of racism and racial discrimination, but also to the determination of the peoples that are seeking peace and justice to fight for the total eradication of the hateful system of apartheid, which has rightly been defined by the United Nations as a crime against humanity. The entire international community must fight this scourge which is an affront to the dignity of the human person.

Mali, faithful to its anti-racist policy, remains firmly committed to the oppressed peoples and unreservedly condemns racism and racial discrimination in all their forms and manifestations. It fully supports all United Nations activities in line with that position.

We rejoice at the release of the great patriot Nelson Mandela in South Africa. So long as the hateful system of apartheid continues to exist in that country, the fight must continue to be waged until apartheid has been totally dismantled and a democratic and non-racial society has emerged there.

MEXICO

The Government of Mexico

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Government of Mexico reiterates its firm support for the defence of human rights, in accordance with the principles and aims of the Charter of the United Nations, and its rejection of any form of discrimination or exclusion based on racial or ethnic prejudice.

Consequently, the Government of Mexico renews its support for the efforts of the international community to put an end to all discriminatory practices and racial segregation in defending fundamental human rights which, like our legal system, are based on the principle of equality.

MOROCCO

Mr. Abdellatif Filali, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation

[Original: French]

Thirty years ago the town of Sharpeville experienced one of the most disastrous days in its history. On 21 March 1960, South African troops sowed terror and massacred civilians whose only fault was to rise up in opposition to the oppressive laws of the apartheid régime and to proclaim their yearning for a democratic and normal life.

Those tragic events, during which hundreds of martyrs were struck down by the bullets of the South African forces, none the less gave proof of the readiness of the black people of South Africa to accept any sacrifice for the total eradication of apartheid.

The international community has often expressed its solidarity with the people of South Africa in its struggle against apartheid. The General Assembly's proclamation of 21 March of each year as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is one of the many ways in which this solidarity is expressed.

Morocco is pleased that this year we are observing the Day in what we hope are favourable circumstances. The release of Mr. Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners is an answer to the insistent demands of the entire international community, which has always desired the triumph of justice and freedom.

While welcoming this important step, which represents considerable progress in the heroic struggle of the people of South Africa against apartheid, we remain convinced that there is still a long way to go before the goal we have all set for ourselves has been reached, namely, the establishment of a multiracial society in South Africa in which all citizens are equal and enjoy the same rights.

As long as South Africa has still not adopted the measures necessary to eliminate the apartheid system root and branch, including those specified by the General Assembly at its special session devoted to apartheid in December 1989, the entire international community must remain vigilant and mobilized in order to achieve this noble objective. The observance this year coincides with the independence of Namibia, which was proclaimed today by the Namibian people and hailed by the entire international community.

We are convinced that a free and independent Namibia will help create a climate of trust that will open the way to beneficial co-operation among all the peoples of the area.

Morocco, which has always demonstrated its solidarity with the South African people, wishes to reaffirm its unconditional support of the international community's efforts to abolish apartheid completely.

PAKISTAN

H.E. Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan

[Original: English]

The people and Government of Pakistan join the world community in commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. On this day, we pay homage to the memory of the valiant martyrs of the Sharpeville massacre, who gave their lives in the cause of equality, freedom and justice. By their supreme sacrifice, they wrote a glorious chapter in the struggle of the people of South Africa to regain their dignity and liberty.

The odious policies of racial discrimination and apartheid, ruthlessly imposed by the racist minority régime in Pretoria, are repugnant to the spirit and principles of Islam and constitute a grave violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Pakistan has, therefore, always been in the vanguard of international efforts for the eradication of racial discrimination and apartheid.

The struggle of the people of southern Africa against the abominable practice of apartheid and racial discrimination has reached a historic juncture. The resistance of the racist Pretoria régime to change its hateful policies is eroding. This is manifested by the fact that the Pretoria régime has been forced to release Mr. Nelson Mandela, who stands as a symbol for the struggle of the people of South Africa. The independence of Namibia, also being celebrated today, is a major step towards complete decolonization of the African continent and the eradication of apartheid from southern Africa. It is essential for the international community to maintain the pressure on the Pretoria régime in order that it is left with no option but to dismantle the evil structure of apartheid in South Africa.

It is our firm belief that the demise of the odious policies of apartheid and racial discrimination would be hastened through the imposition of comprehensive and

mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria régime. In keeping with this belief, the Government of Pakistan scrupulously follows a policy of total boycott of the racist régime in South Africa in all fields.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm the unswerving commitment and support of the Government and people of Pakistan to the total eradication of racial discrimination and apartheid. We look forward to the inevitable triumph of the forces of liberty and justice in South Africa.

PHILIPPINES

H.E. Mrs. Corazón Aquino, President of the Republic of the Philippines

[Original: English]

As we observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, let us reflect and assess the situation of the world today as it bears on the common struggle to eliminate racial discrimination.

The last decade of this century begins with unprecedented changes in international political relations. Ideologies are losing their hold on the minds of peoples. Everywhere ideals of peace, security, social and economic progress, justice and respect for human rights are reaffirmed. Peace is being negotiated in many areas of the world where conflicts occur.

Yet in spite of all these, hostilities still flourish because intolerance remains. Intolerance takes many forms and is evident in man's non-acceptance of the other man's skin colour, race or religion. The most abhorrent form of racial discrimination - apartheid - still remains in place today as an institutionalized system in South Africa. There have been reforms initiated by the present South African Government, namely, the lifting of the 30-year ban on ANC and the repeal of emergency regulations. But those reforms do not strike at the root of the problem - the complete and total eradication of institutionalized racism.

The Philippines rejoiced last February at the news of the release by the South African Government of Nelson Mandela, the most formidable symbol of victims of apartheid, but apartheid as an institution sadly remains.

On this occasion, the Philippines reiterates its well-known position that comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa be continued and intensified. The struggle against apartheid shall someday result in genuine equality of peoples without distinctions of race or colour of skin. This is not the time to waiver, nor relax the international community's vigilance. Apartheid should be ended for all time.

ROMANIA

H.E. Ion Iliescu, President of the Provisional Council of the National Union of Romania

[Original: English]

The solemn session observing the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is a propitious occasion to express my high appreciation of the activities conducted by the United Nations towards complete eradication of racial discimination or any form of violation of basic human rights and freedoms.

The revolution of December 1989 restored freedom, democracy and dignity to the Romanian people. Having brought down a repulsive dictatorship, Romania now wishes to assert its profound attachment to the ideals of national and social justice and its consistent respect for human rights and freedoms. Romania condemns racial discrimination and apartheid policies and reaffirms its solidarity with all those who are fighting those evils.

At the same time, we express ous satisfaction for the progress accomplished in this field. Namibia's accession to independence, which is crowning the long struggle waged by the Namibian people for its freedom, is welcomed by the whole Romanian nation as a momentous event.

Romania salutes the favourable developments in the struggle of the international community against racial discrimination and apartheid. We also believe that the United Nations and its Member States should show even stronger determination with a view to implementing the objectives established by the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

SENEGAL

H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal

[Original: French]

The observance, on 21 March 1990, of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination coincides both with the thirtieth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa and with the solemn consecration of the independence of Namibia, the last bastion of colonialism on the African continent. That in itself would be enough to explain the great significance which it has for us Africans. But there is also the fact that it comes less than two months after the freeing of Nelson Mandela, symbol of the people's struggle against injustice and oppression, and ardent champion of human freedom and dignity.

I should like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the deep commitment of the Senegalese people and Government to the fight against racism and racial discrimination. The reasons underlying this commitment derive from our civilized values and from our political choices, both of which reject all forms of discrimination.

As for racism and racial segregation, in particular, they are also irreconcilable with the ideals of the United Nations and the principles set forth in the Charter of the universal Organization; their most odious form is apartheid, which institutionalizes racism as a system of government.

The United Nations has therefore constantly and unequivocally condemned the apartheid policy of the South African Government for the serious blows it has dealt the dignity and rights of man and peoples. Furthermore, it has not ceased exerting pressure on that Government to induce it to install a genuine democratic process in South Africa: the adoption by consensus on 15 December 1989 of the political Declaration at the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly bears eloquent testimony to that endeavour.

There is no doubt that the valiant struggle of the South African people under the leadership of liberation movements like ANC and PAC, linked with the action of democratic forces and supported by international pressure, has forced the South African Government to take certain measures, the most long-awaited of which was the freeing of Nelson Mandela.

The fact remains, however, that apartheid has not yet been dismantled to make way for a non-racial, egalitarian and democratic society. The way to achieve such an objective is through the establishment of a genuine dialogue between the minority power and the authentic representatives of the black majority, following the lifting of the state of emergency, the freeing of all political prisoners and the repealing of apartheid legislation.

In this Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and on the occasion of this historic Day, I should like to make a renewed appeal to the international community to intensify its pressure on the South African Government so as to encourage it to take the above-mentioned measures and implement them effectively. True to its rejection of racial discrimination and to its attitude of solidarity with the South African people, the Government of Senegal will associate itself with any initiative in that direction. Furthermore, it remains more determined than ever to spare no effort to eliminate all forms of discrimination.

Lastly, I should like to pay tribute to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the Special Committee against Apartheid and to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for their positive contribution to the constant efforts of the United Nations to achieve a world-wide victory for the ideals of justice, equality and peace.

SEYCHELLES

Government of Seychelles

[Original: English]

The observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which this year coincides with the thirtieth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre, serves as a constant reminder to mankind of the evils and

injustices of racial discrimination and the need for sustained international commitment and support to the struggling and oppressed peoples of the world, in particular those of South Africa.

On this auspicious occasion, the people and Government of Seychelles would like to reiterate their solidarity with those peoples who are victims of the abhorrent practice of racial discrimination.

We also take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the commendable work done by the Special Committee against Apartheid under the leadership of its Chairman.

SIERRA LEONE

H.E. Major-General Joseph S. Momoh, President of Sierra Leone

[Original: English]

On this solemn occasion marking the observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, our hearts go out to those across the world who continue to suffer under racial intolerance and bigotry.

As the traditional postures among nations continue to undergo adjustment and transformation, the international community should rise to the challenge of addressing firmly the age-old bane of racism, regardless of where or by whom it is practised. No longer should our response to the threats posed by racial prejudice be dictated by political alliances or strategic considerations. Those countries, silent victims with unsung requiems whose causes are seldom championed, should not become the Sharpevilles of the future.

The enormous possibilities which beckon from beyond this final decade of the twentieth century cannot be even partly realized unless we shed those attributes which limit the full expression of our humanity.

As we celebrate this anniversary, let us not forget that nobility and sense of purpose which inspired and forged the United Nations in those not-so-distant dark days. Our adherence to its principles and objectives will finally become daily tests of our faith and sincerity to that which is best in each of us.

SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. R. F. Botha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa

[Original: English]

This annual observance of the Day of Solidarity for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination affords a renewed opportunity to focus attention on an issue that continues to be of concern to the international community. For South Africa, it constitutes an occasion to reiterate the commitment to creating a new South Africa

based on an equitable and free political, social and economic system, which was outlined by State President F. W. de Klerk in his speech of 2 February 1990 on the occasion of the opening of the second session of the Ninth Parliament.

South Africans are working together towards the adoption of a Constitution which will provide for a non-discriminatory State with equal rights and opportunities regardless of colour, race, sex or creed. Every effort will be made to eliminate discrimination between groups or people or between individuals.

While the present Constitution does not provide for universal franchise, at central government level, this will be a fundamental theme of a new Constitution to be negotiated by all parties.

To lend substance to these ideals, the South African Government is committed to:

(a) A new, democratic Constitution based on universal franchise;

(b) No domination by any group of any other group or groups;

(c) Equality of all before an independent judiciary and equal access to the protection of the courts;

(d) The protection of individual rights as well as the rights of minorities;

(e) Freedom of religion;

(f) A sound economy based on proven economic principles and private enterprise;

(g) Dynamic programmes directed at better education, health services, housing and social conditions for all.

President de Klerk pledged on 20 September 1989 to work urgently with regard to the handling of discriminatory legislation. The continued removal of discrimination remains an important objective. With this in view all restrictions on organizations and individuals inhibiting their political activity have been lifted. No political organization or party is banned in South Africa.

Political actors and organizations may, and do, hold and propagate substantially differing political viewpoints provided they do so without violence. Similar commitments by other Member States would contribute to the relevance of today's meeting.

SUDAN

H.E. General Omer Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir, President of the Revolutionary National Salvation Council of the Sudan

[Original: English]

In joining you and the international community in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which coincides with the thirtieth anniversary of the massacre brutally carried out by the apartheid régime in the town of Sharpeville, South Africa, on my behalf and on behalf of the Government and people of the Sudan, we would like to express to you, and through you, to the international community, our deep appreciation for the untiring efforts made by the international community in general and your Committee in particular in the struggle for the complete eradication of the system of apartheid in South Africa.

It is regrettable however, to note that, notwithstanding the efforts of the international community in combating racism and racial discrimination, a large portion of mankind is still subjected to the most horrible forms of racism, occupation, oppression and systematic denial of its most basic human rights and political freedom, guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations and various international instruments on human rights. In this regard, the racist régimes of South Africa and the occupying forces in occupied Palestine represent two faces of the same coin and there is a close and organic connection between their racist practices against the peoples which are subjected to their invasive occupation and domination.

It is also regrettable that in the three decades since the massacre of Sharpeville, the situation in South Africa has not drastically changed to a better standard, for it has continuously deteriorated causing great loss of human life and human suffering. However, at this juncture in time, the Government and people of the Sudan, while reiterating their welcoming of the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela, hope that his release would lead to a new phase of political dialogue between the apartheid régime of South Africa and the African Nationalists led by ANC and PAC for the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

Although the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela signalled some movement in the right direction on the part of the apartheid régime of South Africa, the Government of the Sudan hereby reaffirms its unshaken position which calls for, inter alia, the immediate and unconditional lifting of the state of emergency imposed by the racist régime in South Africa, the imposition of comprehensive sanctions on both racist régimes of South Africa and occupied Palestine, with the purpose of isolating them until they bow to the will of the international community.

As this day also coincides with the long-awaited happy event, namely the proclamation of the national independence of Namibia, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our congratulations and best wishes to the Government and people of Namibia, wishing them every prosperity and progress.

In commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the people and Government of the Sudan once again applaud the continuous efforts undertaken by the United Nations in the struggle for the elimination of racial discrimination and reaffirm their commitment to lend relentless support to those efforts with a view to attaining the final goal, namely the complete elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Mr. Farouk Al-Shara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March, I have the pleasure, on behalf of the Syrian Arab Republic, to greet your distinguished Committee at the special meeting it is holding to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the massacre perpetrated by the racist minority at Sharpeville.

Your meeting represents an unequivocal condemnation of loathsome racist practices wherever they may be, and it is an indication that the peoples that cherish peace and justice are determined to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination based on the outrage of human dignity and on oppression, exploitation and despoiling indigenous citizens of their rights.

The Sharpeville massacre is one of those perpetrated by the racist régimes in South Africa, occupied Palestine, the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and occupied southern Lebanon. Such massacres are an embodiment of the racist terrorist creed represented by the racist Pretoria régime in South Africa, the perpetrator of the Sharpeville massacre, and the Tel Aviv régime in occupied Palestine, which committed similar acts at Deir Yassin and Nahhalin and which continues to carry out massacres against our Arab people in the occupied Arab territories.

The international community has realized the dangers which threaten international peace and security through the ongoing co-operation between the racist Pretoria and Tel Aviv régimes in a variety of fields, particularly nuclear and military co-operation. This co-operation is based on belief in a single racist creed and has the goal of uprooting indigenous peoples and colonizing their land. It relies on support from well-known Western circles, which helps these racist régimes to perpetuate their aggression and to block the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the international community against them.

Namibia, which suffered the woes of the racist Pretoria régime, has made its way to independence and, on the very day that you meet to commemorate the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre, it is celebrating its accession to independence and the realization of the legitimate aspirations of the Namibian people. We look forward to the people of South Africa ridding themselves of the loathsome apartheid régime, which is violating their basic rights and which constitutes a mark of shame on the brow of mankind.

The international community has regarded apartheid as a crime against humanity and a defiance of the international will and of the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations. On behalf of the Government and people of the Syrian Arab Republic, I take this opportunity to salute the heroic struggle of the people of South Africa. I reaffirm our unceasing commitment to stand by that struggle in accordance with Syria's principled policy of supporting movements for the liberation of peoples until such time as they exercise self-determination and accede to full national independence.

THAILAND

H.E. General Chatichai Choohavan, Prime Minister of Thailand

[Original: English]

On the solemn occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I wish to reiterate once again, on behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the people of Thailand, our full support for the international community's efforts in eliminating apartheid.

We have followed with interest the political situation in South Africa and are encouraged by the recent developments in that country. We hope that the South African authorities will continue their constructive reforms to improve prospects for negotiations with the black majority with a view to ending the inhumane system of apartheid and creating a non-racial democratic society with justice and security for all in South Africa.

We believe, for the benefit of all South African people, that all conflicts should be resolved through peaceful negotiations based on the principle of justice and equality. We therefore urge all concerned parties to display a spirit of co-operation and reconciliation essential for the success of the negotiations so that permanent peace, stability and prosperity will finally be achieved in South Africa.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Government of Trinidad and Tobago

[Original: English]

Trinidad and Tobago is honoured to join with other States Members of the United Nations in the solemn observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The commemoration of the day provides an occasion for national and international assessment of the progress made towards the attainment of this goal and an opportunity for rededication.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago continues to reaffirm the view that the actions of States both nationally and internationally must reflect an appreciation

for the dignity and worth of the human person, as well as the equal right of all members of the human family, irrespective of race, sex or religion.

Today, also, by happy coincidence, the international community celebrates the birth of a free, independent and sovereign Namibia and by extension the victory of a proud, strong and defiant people over oppression and the evil that is the system of apartheid. We take this opportunity to welcome Namibia to the family of nations. The international community is justified to share in the joy and victory of the Namibian people because Namibia is a shining example of what can be achieved by an international community working in unison towards a common goal.

As we celebrate the success of Namibia we should remember yet another sombre anniversary, the thirtieth anniversary of the massacre of civilians at Sharpeville in South Africa. We must pause to reflect that at this very moment the majority of the population in South Africa struggles under the yoke of the odious system of apartheid, which has at its core the reprehensible and discredited notion of racial superiority.

The recent unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and the pronouncements of State President de Klerk have released new hope within the international community that the long night of oppression and lost opportunities in South Africa will end and will usher in the dawn of reconciliation, freedom and justice. The record of the régime in South Africa, however, is replete with instances of "cosmetic change" and prevarication and the international community therefore must continue to maintain the pressure on the South African régime to quicken the pace of reform leading to the total dismantling of the system of apartheid.

The promotion of racism and racial discrimination is repugnant, totally unacceptable and an anathema to the domestic and foreign policy of Trinidad and Tobago. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its commitment to the eradication of racism and racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations and urges the international community to remain vigilant in order to root out this cancer wherever it exists.

The Government of Mexico also wishes to express its great satisfaction at the completion of the Namibian independence process and at the same time to reaffirm its solidarity with the Namibian people. It also hopes that, 30 years after the Sharpeville massacre, the release of the South African leader Nelson Mandela signals the beginning of the process leading to the definitive eradication of the shameful system of apartheid.

TUNISIA

H.E. Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of Tunisia

[Original: Arabic]

Together with all other peoples that cherish peace and justice, Tunisia marks the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Sharpeville tragedy, in which

69 African citizens were martyred while giving peaceful expression to their rejection of the tyrannical racist laws imposed upon them by the South African régime. Tunisia of the new era, which is committed to the principles of human rights, to the defence of human dignity and to support for peoples struggling against the forces of occupation and colonialism, is anxious to affirm its deep faith in the rights of individuals and nations to freedom, dignity and justice. It takes this opportunity to renew to the freedom fighters of the African National Congress the expression of its esteem and of its support for their heroic struggle for liberation, freedom and dignity.

Tunisia, in welcoming today Namibia's accession to independence in culmination of the struggle of the Namibian people, notes with full satisfaction the positive developments being witnessed in South Africa. It expresses the hope that this movement will lead to the ultimate elimination of racial discrimination and ensure appropriate conditions for the establishment of a just and democratic system in this region of our African continent.

In this context, Tunisia has noted with great satisfaction the release of the historic leader Nelson Mandela and the recognition of the African National Congress, heralding a new dawn which may ensure freedom, dignity and equality for all.

Today, 21 March, which will henceforth be associated with two historic events, namely Namibia's independence and the anniversary of the Sharpeville tragedy, provides a fresh opportunity for the expression of our gratification and satisfaction at the support provided by the United Nations to the exalted values enshrined in its Charter, particularly the right of all peoples to freedom and a life of dignity.

Tunisia, of 7 November, in reaffirming its strong support for and active solidarity with the peoples of South Africa in their just struggle, takes this opportunity to call upon all countries that cherish peace to maintain the commitment given at the special session of the General Assembly to continue to bring pressure to bear in order to put an end to racial discrimination and establish a democratic and non-racist State in southern Africa built on respect for human rights. This is a basic condition for stability and peace in southern Africa and in the African continent as a whole and a pillar of peace and security in the world.

TURKEY

Mr. Ali Bozer, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination I would like to express once again the resolute and determined support of the people and Government of Turkey for the elimination of racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations.

21 March is the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre of 1960. The massacre of unarmed civilian Africans in Sharpeville and other townships served to generate greater awareness of the inhumanity of apartheid, the institutionalized racist policy of the South African Government.

Allow me to note, as more than a happy coincidence, that 21 March 1990 will also be marked as independence day for Namibia. Turkey has actively supported the independence efforts of the Namibian people aimed at removing the last vestige of colonialism in Africa and has participated as a founding member in the work of the United Nations Council for Namibia.

I would also like to take this opportunity to convey to the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid our deep appreciation for the leading role it plays in mobilizing international action to eradicate racial discrimination.

I wish to reiterate the support of the people and Government of Turkey to all international efforts aimed at the elimination of racial discrimination, racist policies, practices and institutions contrary to basic human values and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

UGANDA

H.E. Mr. Yoweri K. Museveni, President of Uganda

[Original: English]

On this auspicious occasion when you observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination as well as the thirtieth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa, I wish, in the name of the people and Government of Uganda, to salute you and members of the Special Committee against Apartheid.

We totally support and endorse the work of the Committee in mobilizing world forces and opinion towards total eradication of racial discrimination in whatever form and wherever it exists.

The primitive forces of racism and apartheid in South Africa which for a long time have readily been supported by some Western countries have suddenly come to realize that the days of repression and exploitation of indigenous majority Africans are running out. We accept no temporary solutions; no cosmetic changes aimed at keeping the apartheid system intact. There must be a total fundamental change in South Africa which will bring to an end policies of racism and apartheid.

While the independence of Namibia is a welcome development, the ingredients of tension are still in place over South Africa's continuing claim of Walvis Bay and the offshore Penguin Islands which Security Council resolution 435 (1978) declared an integral part of Namibia. It is important for the international community to reaffirm the sovereign right of Namibia over the Bay and adjacent offshore islands.

Apartheid remains the most formidable challenge to the international community as a whole and Africa in particular. Recent developments in South Africa, notably the release of the ANC leader, Mr. Nelson Mandela, and other political prisoners, have created a sense of euphoria which could lead to complacency on the part of the international community. Regrettably, a major Western country has exploited this event and used it as a pretext for leading the campaign on relaxation of sanctions.

The Harare Declaration provides the blueprint for peace in South Africa. The litmus test for the seriousness of the racist régime towards a genuine negotiated settlement will be the pace at which and extent to which it will embrace that Declaration.

The recent steps announced by the Pretoria régime fall short of meeting the principles of the Declaration. They fail to address the root causes of the struggle of the majority of people in South Africa, namely the total dismantling of apartheid and establishment of an irreversible process of ensuring majority democratic rule in South Africa. This is not, therefore, the time to relax international pressures on the Pretoria régime. On the contrary, we are morally bound more than ever to call for intensified international political pressures and economic sanctions to complement the armed struggle championed by the legitimate liberation movements in South Africa to be exerted on the Pretoria régime. This will compel it to move resolutely to dismantling apartheid and creating the atmosphere for irreversible meaningful dialogue necessary for the establishment of a democratic and non-racial society in South Africa.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Mr. Vladimir A. Kravets, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

[Original: Russian]

I wish to convey my heartfelt greetings to you, to all the members of the Special Committee against Apartheid and to the participants in the solemn meeting to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

This year the thirtieth anniversary of Sharpeville coincides with a truly historic achievement marking the final collapse of a shameful colonial system - the declaration of Namibia's independence.

Today we are witnesses of and participants in positive processes taking place in the world, which are leading to a relaxation of tension and giving hope for a settlement of international crises and conflicts. The decolonization of Namibia, which was won through a struggle waged over many years by literally all the progressive forces of mankind, represents a major breakthrough in unblocking one of the most long-standing situations of conflict in the world.

In these circumstances, we must show even greater determination in the struggle for the definitive elimination of the shameful system of apartheid. It

has not been abolished; the bases of apartheid remain. Nevertheless, the peaceful processes initiated in southern Africa, chiefly Namibia's accession to independence, the consistent position adopted by South African patriots, and certain positive changes that have taken place recently in Pretoria's policy, may herald the decisive phase in eradicating the system of legalized racial discrimination which is apartheid.

South Africa is at a watershed. The situation is changing fundamentally. It largely depends upon those who are in power whether the internal settlement goes in a peaceful direction or in some other direction. The most acceptable way for the conflict to be resolved is politically - through a nation-wide dialogue involving all interested parties. Assisting such a development is our common duty. Allow me to assure you, Mr. Chairman, that as in the past the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic will give all possible support to the efforts being made by the Special Committee to achieve that objective speedily.

URUGUAY

H.E. Mr. Luis Alberto Lacalle, President of Uruguay

[Original: Spanish]

It is with great satisfaction that we are observing today, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, an event which touches the hearts of the people and the Government of Uruguay, whose society has been shaped and developed on the basis of equality and the repudiation of discrimination of any kind.

This is faithfully reflected in Uruguay's legal and social order and in its influence in world affairs through an international policy which vigorously condemns racism. That policy is expressed unequivocally in Uruguay's accession to and strict application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

VENEZUELA

Mr. Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela

[Original: Spanish]

In observing, this year, the thirtieth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre and, today, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Venezuela, in accordance with the letter and the spirit of its national Constitution and the thrust and purposes of the international human rights instruments to which it is party, reiterates once again its total rejection of racism and racial discrimination of any kind.

This is the most fitting occasion to renew our commitment and to demonstrate our full support for the legitimate struggle being waged by the oppressed South African majority against the South African Government's policy and practice of apartheid, which has, for more than four decades, constituted the most pernicious and extreme form of racial discrimination.

Careful analysis of the recent events in South Africa confirms that new political and social forces have emerged which are conducive to a solution to this extremely serious problem.

The international community has rejoiced at the release of some of the political prisoners and leaders of the stature of Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu; the lifting of the long-standing ban on ANC; and the commitment of the South African Government to lay the groundwork for progressive negotiations.

While these events are certainly encouraging, they are not in themselves enough. We are convinced that a system like apartheid cannot be reformed - it must be completely dismantled.

The international community must continue to monitor carefully the situation in South Africa and, without losing sight of the goal of the definitive eradication of apartheid, must promote an appropriate political climate so that the parties to the conflict can negotiate a peaceful settlement of their differences, with full respect for universally accepted principles and values, such as the recognition of the inherent power of popular sovereignty and the strict observance of human rights, without distinction as to race, creed or social status.

Venezuela will continue to support the just aspirations of the oppressed majority of South Africa.

On this solemn occasion, we pay tribute to the Namibian people, which today proclaims its independence and we cannot fail to note the import and significance of the choice of this date by Namibia's elected authorities to realize their aspiration for an independent and sovereign Namibia.

On this occasion, we wish to express our gratitude to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Special Committee against Apartheid for their praiseworthy efforts to eradicate the ignominious system of apartheid and racial discrimination, and to the international community for its support for the struggle.

VIET NAM

H.E. Mr. Do Muoi, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Viet Nam

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to Your Excellencies, the South African people and the fighters of ANC.

The people and Government of Viet Nam wish to reiterate their constant and resolute support for the just struggle of the South African people under the leadership of ANC and that of the nations in southern Africa to abolish the apartheid régime, for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress. We rejoice to note that over the past years this struggle has achieved great advances and obtained significant successes, forcing the Pretoria authorities to recognize the right to self-determination of the Namibian people, free Nelson Mandela, the leader of ANC and relegalize ANC. Viet Nam demands that the Pretoria authorities desist forthwith from all acts of detention and repression against the anti-apartheid fighters, release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners, lift the state of emergency in South Africa and put an end to all attempts and acts aimed at destabilizing the regional situation.

I am confident that, on this occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and on the thirtieth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre, the United Nations and the international community will further strengthen their strong support for the struggle of the South African people with a view to eliminating completely the apartheid régime and take realistic actions to fully implement the 1990 Programme of Action of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid.

We firmly believe that, with the support of all progressive mankind, the just struggle of the South African people and ANC will gain a completely victorious end.

YUGOSLAVIA

H.E. Mr. Janez Drnovsek, President of the Presidency of Yugoslavia

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination I would like to extend, on behalf of the Presidency of Yugoslavia and in my own name, whole-hearted support to the efforts of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid in its struggle against apartheid so as to have racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, which constitutes a crime against humanity, finally eradicated.

Today, at the threshold of the twenty-first century, when fundamentally new processes are taking place in the international community, when social systems are evolving and confrontation is giving way to co-operation and when the struggle for ever fuller respect for human rights is becoming a world process, racial discrimination is an untenable shame for the international community.

By the independence of Namibia, whose solemn proclamation is taking place today, South Africa has been rendered the last bastion of racial discrimination and apartheid. For, despite positive developments that have not side-stepped southern Africa either, there have as yet been no substantial changes in South Africa that the world eagerly expects. Although the new Government of South Africa has started the process of change and has taken some important steps, including the release of

Nelson Mandela and some other political prisoners, the removal of any one of the institutional pillars of apartheid has not even begun yet.

Therefore, the international community must once again resolutely call on the Government of South Africa to initiate a process of the elimination of the system of apartheid without further delay and, to that end, start a dialogue with all essential factors in the country. This should be facilitated also by the consensus achieved at the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on apartheid and its destructive consequences in southern Africa, held in December 1989. This agreement on launching a comprehensive international action for the elimination of apartheid, as well as on the basic principles on which substantive reform of society in South Africa should be predicated, should make it possible, along with an active role of the United Nations, for the process that has been begun to gather pace and enable the people of South Africa to finally realize its inalienable right to live in a society based on equality and without racial division.

I would like to point out on this occasion that the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and Yugoslavia as part of it, will continue to render full support to the democratization and final liberation of the people of South Africa from the inhuman system of apartheid. The positions of the Ninth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and those of OAU are unequivocal in this regard.

We are confident that, as in the past, a special contribution and impulse to these efforts will be given by the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid which, by the elimination of apartheid, would fulfil its historic task. Yugoslavia will spare no effort in supporting the Special Committee, deeply confident that that goal must be achieved urgently.

II. MESSAGES FROM NON-MEMBER STATES

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. Kim Yong Nam, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Democratic People's Republic of Korea

[Original: English]

I deem it my noble obligation to extend whole-hearted support and solidarity of the Government and people of our Republic to the just struggle of the South African people for freedom and democracy and against apartheid on the occasion of the International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The recent legalization of anti-racial organizations, including ANC, and the release of Nelson Mandela in South Africa was an outcome of the common struggle of the South African people and the world's progressive people for a fair and peaceful settlement of the South African question.

However, the tasks to abolish racism and ensure democratic freedom and the rights of the South African people are yet to be implemented. The Government of

the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people strongly denounce the racial discrimination and segregation policy persistently pursued by the South African authorities and their maintenance of legal systems and ruling apparatuses geared to preserving the racial system.

United Nations resolutions on elimination of all forms of racial discrimination should be implemented without delay and apartheid should not be "reformed" but abolished completely. The Korean people will, in the future, too, actively support and encourage the just struggle of the South African people for freedom and liberation against racial discrimination. Convinced that the efforts made by the United Nations to eliminate racial discrimination will be successful. I wish the Secretary-General greater successes in his responsible office.

HOLY SEE

His Holiness Pope John Paul II

[Original: English]

Today the international community is observing the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination proclaimed by the United Nations.

This initiative invites us to reflect on the principle that racial discrimination cannot be tolerated anywhere. It is a cause for concern when we observe that in various countries of the world there is a revival of painful, though isolated, racially based episodes. Such manifestations need to be firmly rejected, with deep awareness of the common sonship of every person and race and, therefore, of our radical brotherhood in Christ.

This year the observance deserves to be particularly emphasized because comforting developments have recently taken place in South Africa, giving us hope for the conquest of injustices and racial tensions which, for too long a time, have been the cause of conflicts and great suffering in that land. I hope that the path of dialogue may be travelled all the way without violence by all the legitimate representatives of the various parties involved, in order to guarantee a future in which every citizen may contribute with equal dignity to the fulfilment of the common good.

The celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination also coincides with the day set for the independence of Namibia, a country which has been waiting a long time to acquire total autonomy: to its people and its new leaders I express my greeting and wish for material and spiritual prosperity. Upon all the inhabitants of Namibia I invoke the Lord's most abundant blessings.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. Ho-Joong Choi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea

[Original: English]

On this special occasion to observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. I, on behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Korea, wish to renew our support for and solidarity with all those suffering from racial discrimination and apartheid.

The Government of the Republic of Korea, in the firm belief that apartheid runs counter to the basic ideals and common values of mankind, has consistently urged that the policy of racial discrimination should be abolished. In this connection, I note with pleasure that the world community's demand for an independent Namibia is at long last fulfilled. The Korean Government welcomes the independence of the Namibian people. We also welcome recent developments in South Africa, which indicate possibilities of further promoting justice and equality among all different races in that country. We believe that these are positive steps in the process towards the eradication of apartheid.

As an expression of our support for the efforts to eliminate the practice of racial discrimination in South Africa, the Korean Government has provided financial assistance through United Nations trust funds and programmes for southern Africa since 1978 and is fulfilling its pledge of 1 million United States dollars, made in 1987, to the Action for Resisting Invasion, Colonialism and Apartheid Fund.

Finally, I take this opportunity to pay high tribute to the Special Committee against Apartheid and other relevant organs of the United Nations for their noble and worthwhile works and to reaffirm our pledge of unspared co-operation with the efforts of the international community to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid.

III. MESSAGES FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND BODIES

INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP TO MONITOR THE SUPPLY AND SHIPPING OF OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO SOUTH AFRICA

Miss Nabeela Al-Mulla, Acting Chairman, Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa

[Original: English]

On the occasion of this solemn day of commemoration of, and recommitment to, the struggle against apartheid and racial discrimination, and on behalf of the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa, I wish to convey to the people of South Africa our

solidarity with their just cause and our support for their continued efforts towards the eradication of apartheid, a system that is considered not only an aberration, but also a crime against humanity.

Sanctions, including the oil embargo, have played a major role in bringing about the constellation of factors which have forced Pretoria to seek negotiated and peaceful changes in the region. The importance of the oil embargo derives from the basic fact that oil is the only strategic commodity in which South Africa is not self-sufficient. An effective embargo by oil-exporting, oil-shipping, as well as oil-handling, States should cut the apartheid régime off from its lifeline.

In view of the importance of this sanctions measure, the Intergovernmental Group will continue its monitoring activities. There will be no relaxation of efforts to enforce the oil embargo until a free, democratic and non-racial system, based on one man, one vote, has been achieved.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

H.E. Mr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

[Original: English]

Today, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) joins the international community once again, in reaffirming its pledge of total support and solidarity with the people of South Africa in their just struggle against racism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

Thirty years ago, the martyrs of Sharpeville, by offering their supreme sacrifices, kindled the flame of freedom in the hearts and souls of millions of their compatriots. This flame has been nurtured by the people of South Africa, who have sustained their just struggle against racial oppression and withstood great sufferings and tribulations, meriting the appreciation of the entire international community.

The commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination this year has assumed special significance. Firstly, it coincides with the momentous occasion of the advent of independence for Namibia and secondly we have the satisfaction to rejoice with the people of South Africa on the welcomed release of the great patriot leader Nelson Mandela after long years of incarceration. These two events signify the changed horizon and the new perspective which are now before us and have been brought about by a long and admirable struggle of the people of southern Africa for the eventual triumph of freedom and justice.

The independence of Namibia has renewed our faith and determination to propel forward as rapidly as we can the inexorable forces of freedom and justice for the people of South Africa.

The release of the great African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela is undoubtedly a vindication of the noble ideals and principles for which he has suffered so much and for so long. His presence among his people has given them new hope. It has also given to all of us a new confidence to ensure that the values which all civilized people of the world hold must eventually triumph.

These recent developments are a source of satisfaction. However, despite numerous appeals from the international community, the inhuman policy of apartheid is not yet officially and formally abandoned by the Pretoria régime, the state of emergency remains in force and numerous political prisoners are still under detention. Racist forces are desperately trying to preserve their monopoly of privileges at the expense of the people of South Africa.

We cannot but strongly condemn the racist and oppressive policies and practices of the apartheid régime in South Africa. We believe that the international community must continue to apply economic sanctions against this régime and exert all efforts to ensure the early transition of South Africa to a fully multiracial democratic society with a political and social order based on egalitarian principles.

OIC prides itself on its close association with the just struggle of the people of South Africa and has extended to them all possible political, moral and material support. The Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, reiterated its conviction that only the total eradication of apartheid and the establishment of majority rule based on the principle of universal suffrage in a united South Africa can lead to a just and lasting solution. The Conference strongly condemned the Pretoria régime and urged the international community, particularly the United Nations, to adopt a series of measures, in the framework of genuine solidarity with the just cause of the people of South Africa. These measures aimed at the early dismantlement of the apartheid system.

On this Day I would like to once again urge the international community on behalf of the Islamic Ummah to give further evidence of their unequivocal support and solidarity with the just struggle of the people of South Africa by providing them all possible assistance and to exert further pressure on the Pretoria régime so as to oblige it to categorically renounce the policies and practices based on racism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

I would also like to pay a sincere homage to the people of South Africa for their innumerable sacrifices for the cause of freedom and in upholding the noble values of equality and fraternity of all mankind. We salute their resolute determination and are confident that the wind of freedom sweeping through the world will soon sound the death knell of the racial, colonial State apparatus of the apartheid régime.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

Mr. Federico Mayor, Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, UNESCO reaffirms its commitment to the total eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a free, democratic, non-racial and united South Africa.

On this day, 21 March, we remember the tragic events of Sharpeville, when the violence inherent in apartheid became terribly patent. Our thoughts go out to all those who have suffered and who continue to suffer from institutionalized racialism in South Africa. We join with all those in that country and throughout the world who utterly reject and oppose a régime and a doctrine that seek to deny our common humanity.

UNESCO welcomes the liberalization measures recently taken by the South African Government in response to sustained national and international pressures, and it rejoices in particular at the release from imprisonment of Mr. Nelson Mandela and some of his comrades. At the same time we remain conscious that this is but a step on the way to an immutable goal: the complete dismantling of the apartheid régime as a preparation for the construction of a new South Africa in which all its peoples may live together in justice and equality.

We extend our thanks and best wishes to Mr. Garba as he concludes his term as Chairman of the anti-apartheid Committee, and we warmly welcome his successor, Ambassador Ibrahim Gambari, whose competence and dedication will be of invaluable service to the world community in this crucial phase of the struggle against racism and apartheid.

IV. MESSAGES FROM INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES' SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION

Mr. Morad Ghaleb, President of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the 21 March Sharpeville massacre, the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) once again reiterates its opposition to the racial society and apartheid which have caused many sufferings to the black majority of the people of South Africa.

In spite of recent positive developments the existing situation in the country is not one of peace and security. There is a need for the Government of South

Africa to curb the last obstacles that prevent the immediate start of talks with ANC and other democratic organizations in South Africa.

The state of emergency should be lifted.

All the political detainees and prisoners should be released and the troops should withdraw from the townships.

The South African Government should create a climate of trust for the people of South Africa and we consider that the implementation of the above demands would help to create the necessary atmosphere for genuine negotiations.

AAPSO calls upon all the peace-loving people to support the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa adopted by the General Assembly at its special session in December 1989. AAPSO warmly hails the decisions of the OAU Special Committee on South Africa adopted at its recent session at Lusaka, Zambia, in March 1990.

The proclamation of the independence of Namibia coinciding with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is clearly indicating that the struggle to curb the last vestiges of apartheid in South Africa has entered a qualitatively new phase.

Therefore, AAPSO, while welcoming all the important and promising changes in the area, calls upon all parties in South Africa to take full advantage of opportunities arising from out of the present situation. AAPSO fully supports the efforts of ANC and the mass democratic movement to arrive at a peaceful settlement of the conflict in their country through genuine negotiations. On this occasion we would like to express our highest appreciation of the outstanding role played by the United Nations and by the Secretary-General in firmly pursuing the process.

AAPSO will continue to support the United Nations in this endeavour.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION

Women's International Democratic Federation

[Original: English]

On behalf of the Women's International Democratic Federation which unites millions of women in 138 national affiliates organized in 117 States Members of the United Nations, we welcome this Day which represents a renewal of the United Nations determination to end the scourge of racial discrimination particularly as it impacts with such severity on the lives of millions of Africans in southern Africa.

The vernal equinox this year has ushered in the independence of the youngest nation State, Namibia. We who have struggled through the years to help the Namibian people achieve this goal can rejoice in this victory over the forces of

South African apartheid which for so many years raped Namibia of its natural resources and kept the black Namibians in a thralldom of slavery. My organization pledges through its national affiliates to continue our support, materially and psychologically to the women, men and children of Namibia as they seek to build their nation.

We also rejoice in the release of Nelson Mandela as a symbol of the new day dawning in South Africa. But we also note that Nelson Mandela walked out of a small prison into the larger prison which is the Republic of South Africa itself. Mandela's release has not altered the structure of apartheid.

When a new Constitution determined by all the people of South Africa and based on the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is in place then the world can rightfully rejoice that apartheid has been dismantled and a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa has emerged. This must be the goal of the political negotiations between the Government of South Africa and the duly recognized black leadership which must include that vanguard organization, ANC.

To achieve a genuine start of political negotiations, the peoples of the world and the Governments of the world must continue to play a pivotal role. Power does not concede without struggle. The importance of mandatory economic sanctions against the Pretoria régime; the breaking off of all military collaboration with South Africa and a mandatory arms embargo could be decisive elements in bringing about the necessary political climate if fundamental change is to come to South Africa.

V. MESSAGES FROM NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

AFRICAN ASIAN PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE OF BULGARIA

Mr. Slavcho Trunski, Chairman of the African Asian People's Solidarity Committee of Bulgaria

[Original: English]

The Asian African People's Solidarity Committee is hereby extending to you its warmest greetings on the holding of the solemn meeting in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the thirtieth anniversary of the bloody crime committed by the racist régime in Sharpeville.

On behalf of the Bulgarian public, I would like to again express our deep respect and support for the Special Committee against Apartheid which has been conducting a strenuous effort in the past 27 years, aimed at eliminating the policy of apartheid of the racist régime in South Africa.

The Bulgarian people have always condemned the system of apartheid in South Africa and have called for the granting of just human and civil rights to the indigenous population of South Africa. They support the efforts to resolve the

most acute problems of the region and to establish a situation of peace and security in that part of the world.

The African Asian People's Solidarity Committee would like to assure you that it will continue to mobilize the Bulgarian public in support of the humane ideas of the United Nations. We wish the Special Committee against Apartheid further success in its noble work aimed at the final eradication of apartheid and racial discrimination.

POLISH COMMITTEE FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLES OF ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA

Mr. Jerzy Markiewicz, Secretary-General of the Polish Committee for Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day of struggle against racial discrimination and apartheid, please accept the sincere congratulations and assurances of our full and unconditional support for the noble activity of the Special Committee. We feel encouraged with the first positive results of the world-wide campaign against apartheid and racism. The Special Committee has played a significant role in this campaign. The release of Nelson Mandela - the symbol of constant and continuous struggle against apartheid - and the legalization of ANC is a good beginning, as we believe, to the total eradication of the inhuman system of apartheid and racism. We salute the Committee also on the occasion of Namibia's declaration of independence. An independent Namibia will undoubtedly help to invigorate the process of eradicating apartheid.

However, there is still much to be done in order to live in a world where all the people irrespective of their race will enjoy equal rights.

The Polish Committee for Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America sincerely wishes the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid great success in the struggle against apartheid - the biggest crime against humanity.

SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Solidarity Committee of the German Democratic Republic

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Solidarity Committee of the German Democratic Republic re-emphasizes its determination to continue to work consistently for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, particularly of the apartheid system in South Africa. It is both with hope and concern that we have followed the

developments in southern Africa. The independence of Namibia, the release of Nelson Mandela and of other ANC leaders, the lifting of the ban on ANC in South Africa - these are signs indicative of a turn for the better and a more peaceful development in this region.

Yet, the international community must not relent in its endeavours to force the Government of South Africa by way of sanctions to eradicate completely the apartheid system. These endeavours include solidarity with and assistance to ANC of South Africa and for the democratic mass movement in South Africa.

Today, we are also paying homage to the victims of the Sharpeville massacre in 1960. While remembering that event with grief, we believe that these victims and hundreds of others had not lost their lives in vain. At long last, real prospects are opening up now for the South African people in its struggle for freedom to come closer to the objective of a free, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

The Solidarity Committee of the German Democratic Republic reassures its friend Nelson Mandela, ANC of South Africa and the democratic mass movement in South Africa of its continued solidarity and assistance in the just struggle against the apartheid system.

SOVIET AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

Presidium of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee

[Original: English]

The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, on behalf of the Soviet public, greets the participants of the meeting of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid dedicated to the International Day of struggle for liquidation of racism and racial discrimination.

Events in Sharpeville 30 years ago are closely connected with the present events in South Africa. Today's appraisal of the national democratic struggle under the leadership of ANC shows that terror and violence cannot stop the aspiration of the broad people's masses for democracy and freedom.

We commend the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid for its important contribution to the support of the struggle of the people of South Africa for liberation and confirm our readiness to co-operate in the interests of final liquidation of apartheid and of creating a united democratic non-racial South Africa.

UNITED
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

MESSAGES RECEIVED ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

(Issued in accordance with a decision taken by the Special Committee at its 638th meeting on 21 March 1990)

Corrigendum

Page 41, message from H.E. Mr. Yoweri K. Museveni, President of Uganda

Fourth paragraph should read

While the independence of Namibia is a welcome development, the ingredients of tension are still in place over South Africa's continuing claim on Walvis Bay and the offshore Penguin Islands. By all accounts this claim is totally absurd. It is important for the international community to affirm the sovereign right of Namibia over the Bay and adjacent offshore Islands.

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